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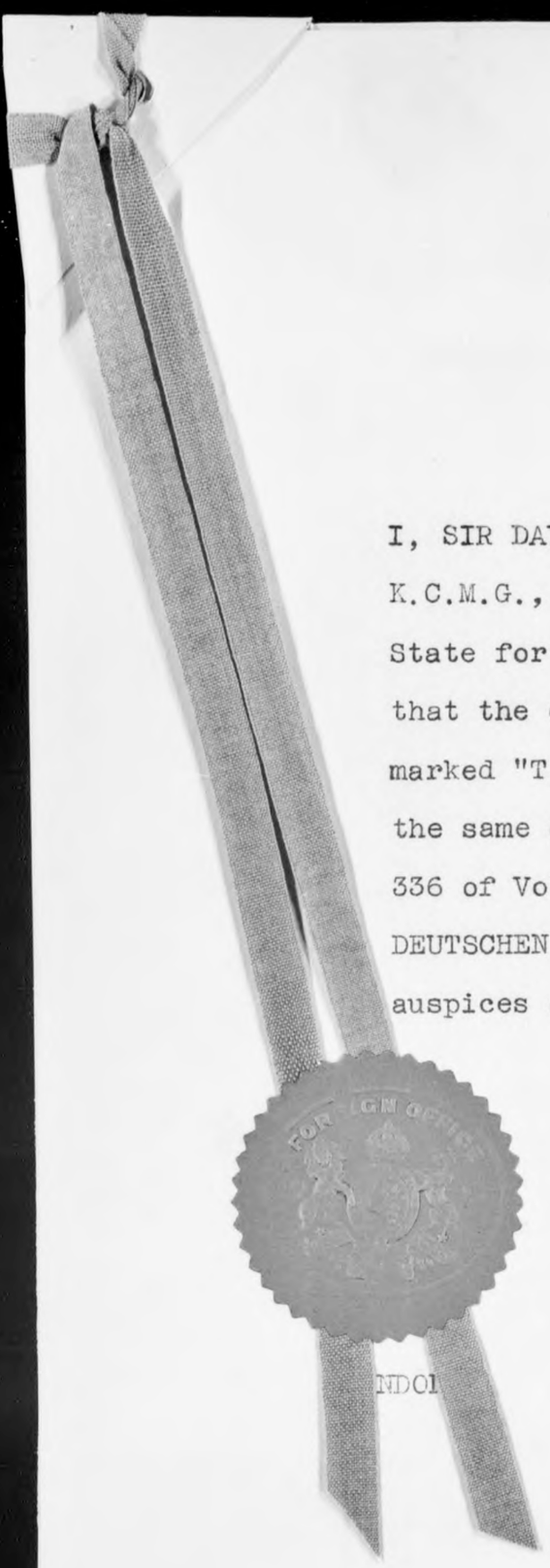
H – 3553

International Court of Justice

T.C 29

I, SIR DAVID JOHN MONTAGU-DOUGLAS-SCOTT, K.C.M.G., a Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, HEREBY CERTIFY that the document attached hereto and marked "T.C.29." is a photostat copy of the same document as that printed on page 336 of Volume VI 1 of DOKUMENTE DER DEUTSCHEN POLITIK, issued under the auspices of the German Government.



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David Scott

(An English translation of the said document is attached.)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
GB Exhibit 32
Filed 5 Dec 45

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25th. October, 1945.

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T.C.29.

DEUTSCHE ZUSICHERUNG AN POLEN, 26.SEPT. 1938.

Das schwierigste Problem, das ich vorfand, war das deutsch-polnische Verhältnis. Es bestand die Gefahr, daß die Vorstellung einer „Erbfeindschaft" von unserem wie auch vom polnischen Volke Besitz ergreifen würde. Dem wollte ich vorbeugen. Ich weiß genau, daß es mir nicht gelungen wäre, wenn damals Polen eine demokratische Verfassung gehabt hätte. Denn diese Demokratien, die von Friedensphrasen triefen, sind die blutgierigsten Kriegshetzer. In Polen herrschte nun keine Demokratie, sondern ein Mann.[1] Mit ihm gelang es in knapp einem Jahr ein Übereinkommen[2] zu erzielen, das zunächst auf die Dauer von zehn Jahren grundsätzlich die Gefahr eines Zusammenstoßes beseitigte. Wir alle sind überzeugt, daß dieses Abkommen eine dauernde Befriedung mit sich bringen wird. Wir sehen ein, daß hier zwei Völker sind, die nebeneinander leben müssen und von denen keines das andere beseitigen kann. Ein Staat von 33 Millionen Menschen wird immer nach einem Zugang zum Meere streben.[3] Es mußte daher ein Weg der Verständigung gefunden werden. Er ist gefunden worden und wird immer weiter ausgebaut. Das Entscheidende ist, daß die beiden Staatsführungen und alle vernünftigen und einsichtigen Menschen in beiden Völkern und Ländern den festen Willen haben, das Verhältnis immer mehr zu bessern. Es war eine wirkliche Friedenstat, die mehr wert ist als das ganze Geschwätz im Genfer Völkerbundspalast.

037130

GERMAN ASSURANCE TO POLAND, SEPT. 26th,1938.

The most difficult problem with which I was confronted was that of our relations with Poland. There was a danger that Poles and Germans would regard each other as hereditary enemies. I wanted to prevent this. I know well enough that I should not have been successful if Poland had had a democratic Constitution. For these democracies which indulge in phrases about peace are the most bloodthirsty war agitators. In Poland there ruled no democracy, but a man; and with him I succeeded, in precisely twelve months, in coming to an agreement which, for ten years in the first instance, entirely removed the danger of a conflict. We are all convinced that this agreement will bring lasting pacification. We realise that here are two peoples which must live together and neither of which can do away with the other. A people of 33 millions will always strive for an outlet to the sea. A way for understanding, then, had to be found; it has been found, and it will be ever further extended. Certainly things were hard in this area.* ~~The nationalities and small national groups frequently quarrelled among themselves.~~ But the main fact is that the two Governments, and all reasonable and clear-sighted persons among the two peoples and in the two countries, possess the firm will and determination to improve their relations. It was a real work of peace, of more worth than all the chattering in the League of Nations Palace at Geneva.

I have attempted during this period gradually to bring about better and lasting relations with other nations as well. We have given guarantees for the States in the West. We have assured all our immediate neighbours of the integrity of their territory as far as Germany is concerned. That is no mere phrase. It is our sacred will. We have no interest whatever in a breach of the peace. We want nothing from these peoples. These offers of ours met with growing understanding. One by one the peoples are freeing themselves from the crass blindness of Geneva, which I would call a policy, not of the collective obligation for peace, but of the collective obligation for war. They are freeing themselves and beginning to see problems soberly; they are ready for understanding and desirous of peace.

* This sentence omitted in German text

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